

(Primary Sponsor)

28 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory

committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study the issues of production and regulation of wine, winemaking, grape-growing, and the use of byproducts. The study shall examine:

(1) wine production, including processes of harvesting, crushing, fermentation, clarification, packaging, labeling, and storage;

(2) the marketing of wine, including demographics, wine tourism, and other consumer behavior;

(3) regulatory requirements and constraints as provided in Title 16 and by the United States department of the treasury; and

(4) additional licensing opportunities for wine production, manufacturing, and sales.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study include representatives of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Revenue, and appropriate stakeholders, including state or local groups that work on the topic of viticulture.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions, comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 69th Legislature.

- END -